

Mineralogia :

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1033.d.14
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An Account of the extraordinary
Virtues and manifold Uses of a
Mineral Salt, both in Physic and
Surgery, by Land and by Sea ;
which is so safe, pleasant and
Effectual in its Operation, that
it may be taken by those of all
Ages and Constitutions with
great Benefit, and without Dan-
ger of the least Prejudice. The
whole Exemplified by the
Testimony of several eminent
Physicians and Surgeons from
their own Experience.

By *Edmund Packe M. D. and Chymist.*

PRINTED for and sold by the Author at
his House at the *Golden-Head* in *Southamp-
ton-street, Covent-Garden.*

Price Six-pence

THE HISTORY OF THE

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TO THE
HONOURABLE
THE LORDS OF THE
HONOURABLE

THE HOUSE OF COMMONS
IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED
THE PETITION OF THE

WITNESSES
AND WHEREAS
THE PETITIONERS
ALLEGED THAT

THEY HAD BEEN
DEPRIVED OF
THEIR RIGHTS
AND LIBERTIES
BY THE

ACTS OF PARLIAMENT
AND THE
ORDINANCES
AND DECREES
OF THE

COURTS OF JUSTICE
AND THE
MAGISTRATES
AND THE
OFFICERS OF THE

REVENUE

TO THE
READER:

THE first Account of this *Salt* was published by my Father, Dr. *Chr. Packe* in that Memorable Year 1688 ; a second Edition of it came out in 1694, and a third Account was given of it in a Book he published in the Year 1708, entituled *Medela Chymica*. He was the Translator of *Glauber's* Works, and wrote several Tracts in *Physic* and *Chymistry* of no little use to the Age he liv'd in. His skill in preparing Genuine, Spagyricall Medicines in deplorable Cases, especially his Probity and Judgment in the Administring them, and his undistinguish'd humanity to Mankind, were so well known and acknowledged by all that knew him, as they still are by his surviving Friends, that I may easily excuse my self the Province of delineating him in his full Character. All I shall say is, that I should be very glad to be carried with so good a one to my Grave.

As he would advance nothing but what he knew or firmly believed to be matter of Fact, concerning this or any other of his Medicines, so have I. Many more Vertues than are here enumerated, might justly be ascribed to this *Benign Salt* ; but I forbear to put them in one View together, because those who ought to know better, have given the unthinking a Prejudice against any Medicine offer'd as useful in many Cases, as *Quackish*, tho' it never was recommended.

To the READER.

commended (or is now) in any Case, but those where in purging is necessary or Proper: And as to its general Agreeableness to all Constitutions and Ages, I my self can answer for that; having never observed nor heard of (after 24 Years intimate Acquaintance with the use of it) the least disadvantage attending any one Person from the taking it. In a Cure of two historiz'd in the tract mention is made of some other Medicines administr'd with the Salt, an Account of which has been published in *Medela Chymica*, which is now out of Print, and therefore with all Expedition shall be republished with Additions, that so many valuable Medicines may not be lost to the Republic of Physic, nor the Author's Expectation ungratefully frustrated, in committing the Promulgation of them to my Care and Industry.

I have received several Letters from *His Majesty's* Plantations Abroad, commending the Virtues of this Salt in the Cure of many Distempers, peculiar to those Climes; but especially the *Bloody Flux*, in *Barbadoes*, *Jamaica*, *Antegoa*, *Maderas* and other Parts, in which Case I am assured it has sav'd more Lives in Proportion to the use of it, than any one Medicine yet known. I cannot but recommend it therefore to all who visit those Parts, as a comfortable Branch of Store. If carried in a Glass it will keep its beauty, and preserve its Virtues unalterable to numberless Years. I have only to add that those who shall have occasion for *Chymical* or *Galenical* Medicines, may at any time be faithfully furnished with them at my House, in *Southampton Street*, *Covent-Garden*.

or any other of his Medicines to him, or my more Virtues than he has commended, might justly be ascribed to him; but I forbear to put them in one Vase, because those who ought to know best are given the unthank-ful a Prize as if it were a new discovery, it never was re- com-

An Account of the Vertues and Use of Sal Solutivum,

*Prepared only by Dr. Edmund Packe,
at his House at the Golden-Head, in
Southampton-Street Covent Garden.*

AFTER many years Experience of the vertues and worth of this Medicine, in helping and curing many Diseases, to which the Body of man is subject, which of late I have also much improved and exalted in its Vertues; I have determined at length for a Publick Benefit (and to excuse my self from Writing many Letters) to Publish the following Account of it.

I. It is a Salt prepared of Mineral Subjects, by apt Mediums purify'd and reconciled to the *Archeus*, or *Aura vitalis*, of the Human Body, (which is the adequate object of Medicine) and thereby becomes a Salutiferous remedy ennobled with Vertues sufficient for the curing of many Diseases. This Definition ariseth from its subject, Object and End.

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II. It is neither an Acid nor an Alcalý, but a Salt of a middle Nature, being able to pass the several Digestions unchanged, and in its passage to resolve and absterge all Preternatural Coagulations, for which Reason I call it *Sal Solutivum*.

III. It is endowed with those Four general Properties. viz. *Cathartic*, *Diuretic*, *Deobstruent*, and allaying of all Preternatural heat and *Acrimony*: Besides which, as I have now exalted and improv'd it with the noble *Sulphur of Venus*, it is a general easer of Pain, and Extinguisher of Venereal Venoms, that are not grown to a confirm'd Pox, as is manifest by what it effects now in alleviating the Pains of the *Gout*, *Rheumatism*, *Tooth-ach*, *Colick*, *Griping* of the *Guts*, *Virulent Gonorrhæa's*, &c. beyond what it could have done heretofore.

Having thus briefly premised its Nature and Qualifications in general, for the satisfaction of such Physicians as may desire to make use of it; I shall now Address my self more particularly to shew its Virtues and manner of using.

I. *Sal Solutivum* purgeth the gross Excrements and most viscid Humours of the first passages without Nauseating the Stomach, or the least griping Pains. 2. It is singular in opening Obstructions of the Vessels and Viscera. 3. It purifies and invigorates the whole

whole Mass of Blood, and restores it to its natural State ; for being an amicable Salt, it hath admittance into the Blood, and reacheth, as *Helmant* saith, of fixed Alcalyes made Volatile, *usque ad limen quarta Digestionis*. But this is deny'd to all ordinary purging Medicines, which if through any inadvertency of the *Archeus*, they chance to slip into the lacteal Veins, and so into the Blood ; they cause griping, Convulsive pains, Stitches, Flux of Blood, Faintings, &c. till Nature hath a gain discharged her self of them ; and so instead of Purging the Blood, too often both corrupt and exhaust it. And these two Properties are well worth the observing, being not to be met with even in the mildest of the common *Catharticks*. For this cause it is of great use in *Fevers*, neither disturbing the Juices, nor accending the Blood. I have seen many *Fevers* proceeding from Surfeits, both in eating and drinking quickly cured by it, and even Hectick Fevers themselves in a longer time, but such as I judged to proceed from a Scorbutick or venereal Cause : As for those which are wont to accompany a *Phthisis* I have had no Experience of it in them, yet I doubt not but even in those it would allay the Preternatural heat.

But that this Medicine may be given to the best advantage, it is necessary in the Administring it, to have regard to two special Intentions which Physicians are wont to observe in the curing Diseases, *viz.* 1. The

purging the first passages, the Stomach and
 Intestines of gross Excrements and Filths
 2, To open and dissolve all Stagnant and ob-
 structing matter in the Viscera, as the *Pan-*
creas, Mesentery, Liver, Spleen, Reins and
Womb, and to correct and purifie the Blood,
 when it declines from its natural *Crisis*. The
 ordinary Dose of this Salt to purge accor-
 ding to the *first Intention* (which only is pur-
 ging according to common Acceptation) is
 from half an Ounce to six Drams, Dissolved
 in a Pint, or a Pint and a half of warm
 Posset-drink, new Whey, or pure Water, and
 drank in the Morning fasting. Those that
 cannot take such a quantity of Liquor, may
 dissolve their Dose in a half Pint (which will
 presently dissolve if it be warmed) and
 drink another half Pint presently after it, and
 a third half an hour after that, and fast till
 Dinner-time, except the Patient have a mind
 to take a Porrenger of Water Gruel, or thin
 Broth; neither will a draught of Ale, or a
 Dish of Tea at all hinder, but promote the
 working of it, Those who like neither Posset-
 drink, Whey or Water, or want the Conve-
 niency of getting them, may take, it in Ale,
 and it will do well enough; altho' in some
 few Persons I have known it cause a Drow-
 ziness when taken in spirituous Liquors; the
 Reason of which is its partaking of the *Ano-*
dyne, Narcotick Sulphurs of *Mars* and *Venus*,
 which readily associate themselves with the
 vegetable Sulphureous Spirits, by which they
 are

If you would use it instead of the purging Waters, as *Epsom, Dulwich, Northall, &c.* dissolve six Drams, or three quarters of an Ounce of the Salt, in the same quantity of pure Spring-water, as would be fit for the Patient of any of the purging Waters, *viz.* from three Pints to three Quarts, ordering him to drink it by degrees in the Morning, in the space of an Hour and a half, or two Hours, and to walk, or use some Exercise in the open Air (provided it be in the Summer time) and to order himself as if he were drinking the Mineral purging Waters.

But if you would have it answer the End of the Chalybeate Waters; as the *German-Spaw, Tunbridge, Islington, &c. viz.* to purge but little by Stool, but to alter and open Obstructions, then use it as in the second general Direction already given.

Now although this Salt be of great use and service in very many Diseases, yet I have by long Experience observed, that in some it is specifically potent; as in the *Scurvy, Jaundies, Dropsy, Hysserical Suffocations, Melancholy Vapours, Greensickness, stoppage of the Menses, Piles, Ghonorrhæa, Colic, Diarrhæa, Bloody Flux, Gripping of the Guts, Worms of all sorts, old Head-ach, Inflammations and Rheumes of the Eyes, Itch, and Cholerick Eruptions of the Skin, stoppage and heat of Urine.* In all which Cases I may truly say, it hath signalized it self, and often exceeded my Expectations. And although from the Directions already given,

given, any one may easily collect the Way of giving it in those Diseases, yet for the publick Good I shall be somewhat more particular.

In the *Scurvy*, I first purge the Patient with a Dose or two of *Sal Solutivum*, as at the beginning of the second general Direction; then I dissolve an Ounce of it in a Quart of pure Water, by shaking them together in a Bottle till all the Salt is dissolved, and then order the Patient to drink half a Pint of the same at Night going to Bed, and another half Pint early in the Morning, so that half an Ounce of the Salt is taken in a Day, and this I continue daily for a Month or six Weeks, according to the Age and Strength of the Disease, ordering the Patient besides to drink a pure and well rectify'd *Volatile Spirit of Salt*, in all his drink as well at Meat as at other times, ten or twelve Drops at a time or more, so that he may drink the quantity of forty or fifty Drops in a Day, (which Spirit of Salt may be had at my House sealed up in Glasses with printed Directions for its use: Price of each Glass a Shilling) for such as have the *Scurvy*, manifested in their Mouths, by Soreness of the Gums, and their Readiness to bleed upon every light Occasion; I order an Ounce of the Salt to be dissolved in a Pint of warm Water, and the Mouth to be well washed with some of that Water warm two or three times a Day.

In the *Faundies* I give it in Summer in Water or Whey, in Winter in Warm Posset-drink, every other day five or six Drams, or two days together (aaccording as it works) then intermit a day and give it again, and on the intermitting days half the Dose, continuing the use of it, till the Yellowness and Faintness cease.

In the *Dropsie*, I give it in the same manner as in the *Faundies*, only in a less quantity of the *Vehicle*. I have cured both the *Ascites* and the *Anasarca* with it, but whether it will do ought in a *Tympany*, I know not; having never given it that I remember in that Disease, for in that I am wont to use my *Artanum Universale*, *Species Universalis*, and *Tinctura Regalis*. But in an *Ascites*, whether it proceed from an Obstruction of the *Liver*, *Kidneys* or *Ureters*, or from a Rupture of the *Kasa Lymphatica*, from their two great Repletion; (from which last I perswade my self more Dropsies to arise than from any other cause) this Medicine answers all the Intentions of cure, because it not only opens all Obstructions, and pleasantly reduceth the water, but also by its strengthening and Balsamick Virtue, Conglutinates the breaches of those Vessels, and Remedies the too great laxity of the *Viscera*, having all the Vertues of a compleat vulnerary Medicine, as I shall have occasion to shew by and by, when I come to speak of its external use.

In *Hysterical Suffocations*, commonly called Fits of the Mother, and Melancholy Vapours I give two or three Drams dissolved in a Pint and a half, or a Quart of pure water upon the approach of the Fit, or if that cannot be, as soon as the Fit is off, and in the time of the Fit (when greater quantities cannot be got down) I order the dissolution of the Salt in water to be given by Spoonfulls. The next day I purge with the whole Dose dissolved in a Quart of water: And for as much as those suffocating Fumes are caused by Obstructions, and Fuliginous matter remaining in the small Vessels, where they ferment from time to time, causing a puffing up, and Sense of fullness (especially sometimes after eating) it is necessary to take the Salt daily for some time, to open and carry off the Obstructions as in the second general direction; by this means their frequent returns may be prevented, by extirpating the Evil which frequently (in those dismal oppressions to the poor female Sex) is but only palliated.

In the *Green-Sickness* in Maids, it is necessary to dissolve an Ounce of the Salt in a Quart of pure water, and to take half a Pint of the water at night going to Bed, and the same quantity early the next Morning, continuing this course daily for three, four or five Weeks if need be, not omitting to purge the patient first with a full Dose or two at the beginning, as in the second general Direction, as also two or three days before the full

full of the Moon, that Nature may be the more effectually helped in this way of operating. Where the *Menses* are only stopt, it is to be taken as in the second general direction for Obstructions; besides which the Patient is to be purged once or twice with the full Dose, two or 3 days before her monthly time of Expectancy. This Medicine is also of singular use for those Women whose Months are about to leave them, in preventing many disorders which are occasioned thereby; in which case it is to be taken once or twice to the quantity of half an Ounce, or five or six Drams for three or four Months successively, about the time when they ought to flow. I have known some Women of Fifty years of Age, who have by the use of this Medicine seemed again in that respect to grow young. I have also easily and effectually with this Salt delivered some Women of false great Bellies.

About two Months since, I gave three quarters of an Ounce of *Sal Solutivum* to a Maid about twenty one years of Age, who had a very ill habit of Body, and a pale sickly complexion, having never had the Course of Nature in due order or quantity, and for some Months past totally suppressed. She was now seized with a grievous pain in her Right side, emulating an illegitimate Pleurisie, which (as she told me) had frequently assaulted her for some Months past, for the removing which pain I gave her the Salt,

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which gave her seven or eight Stools before Noon without any Sicknes or Gripping, by which time her pain was quite gone out of her side: She eat some dinner, and about two hours afterwards discharged her Stomach by Vomit of a great quantity of filthy green Matter, after which she had two or three Stools more, with which her *Menses* came down plentifully, which with her often going to the Vault occasioned her catching of Cold, and a sore Throat. I ordered she should have somewhat warmed and comfortable, and go to Bed, and keep very warm the next day which she did; the Night following (she still complained of her Throat, and a Soreness over all her Bones, (as she phras'd it) I ordered her ten Grains of my *Pillula Balsamica* which sweat her very plentifully; during her sweating, her natural Purgations were but little, but as soon as that was over they returned again, continuing for a due time, since which she hath remained well.

It is a singular Remedy for the *Worms* of all sorts, killing them and resolving them into Slime, and purging their putrid Matter out of the Body. To Children from three years of Age to seven, I give from a Dram and a half to three Drams, from seven to fourteen, half an Ounce, from fourteen to twenty or more, from half an Ounce, to three quarters of an Ounce or six Drams dissolved in fair water, Whey or Posset-drink and continued every day for a week together.

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Where it is difficult to get Children to take it, a little Sugar may be added to the Dissolution to make it the pleasanter. My *Volatile Spirit of Salt* also effecteth the same in a longer time in those Children which cannot be perswaded to take the Salt, which they may take in all their drink, and not discern it. The Salt and this Spirit used together are still more effectual.

In the *Piles* I give a quarter of an Ounce of the Salt dissolved in half a Pint of Water in Summer time, or warm Posset-drink in Winter, which justs keeps the Belly soluble, and by dulcifying the *Acrimony* of the protruded Blood takes away the Pain and Inflammation; besides which, if the *Piles* be outward, I order them to be often embrocated with my *Aqua Phagadenica*, and fine Rags to be laid upon them wet in the same Water: But if they be within the *Anus*, then I order the same Water to be warmed, and injected by a Syringe twice or thrice a day, and a Rag three or four times double well wetted in the same to be applied outwardly, and by this Course the *Piles* by degrees dwindle and shrink up like dry'd Grapes. This Course hath never fail'd me, but hath been effectual even when the *Piles* have been inveterate and fistulated. To those who are subject to the *Piles*, I advise the daily use of my *Volatile Spirit of Salt*, in all their drink, to the quantity of thirty or forty drops a day, it is far better in this Disease than any Diet-drink.

In *Virulent Ghonorrhæas* or *Claps*, I give first six drams of the Salt dissolved in fair Water in Summer, or in a Pint of warm Posset-drink in Winter, ordering the Patient to drink another Pint within an Hour after, then I give half an Ounce so dissolved every Morning in a Pint of the *Vehicle* continuing it till all the heat and sharpness is gone, and the Gleet fit to be stopt, which sometimes will be in a Week, sometimes a Fortnight or three Weeks, according as it is of shorter or longer standing, or the Diseasifying-power milder or stronger; for it pleasantly and effectually educeth the venereal Venom, purifyeth the Seed, and strengtheneth the Spermatick Vessels. But when the Issuing is fit to be stopt, I give my *Balsamum ad Ghonorhæam* every Night at going to Bed, from twenty to forty Drops mixt with a little Sugar, and half an Ounce of the Salt every other Morning. But where a *Ghonorhæa* hath not been taken in time, or hath been unduly stopt, so that it be turned into an incipient Pox, and I find by giving six or seven doses of the Salt that it cannot reach it, then I have recourse to purging and sweating, alternately with my *Manna Mercurii*, and *Aurum, vitæ Bezoardicum*, which usually effects the Cure to Satisfaction. But in a *Ghonorhæa* unduly stopt (known for the most part at the first by a painful Tumour in the Groyn) when it hath not exceeded a Month, three, four, or five Doses of this Salt will set it a running again

again, and afterwards Cure it, being used as above with the Balsam, but in longer time I have known some who have fallen into the Hands of Men either unskilful in this matter, or worse, who have endeavoured to dis-cuss those Tumours, which themselves have made by thier unlesonable stopping of a *Gonorhea*, and have sometimes effected it so well, as when the Patient hath thought himself cured of a Clap, he hath soon after been attacked by the Symptoms of the Pox, and so the last Error of the Physician was worse than the first.

In the *Colic* or *Gripping* of the *Guts*, where there is great Pain, I dissolve six Drams or three quarters of an Ounce of the Salt in a Quart of hot Spring-water, and order the Patient to drink three or four Glasses in the space of half an Hour, as hot as he can: But if there be vomiting let it be drank more leisurely, viz. a Quarter of a Pint once in a quarter of an Hour till the Vomiting cease, then take notice how much of the Medicine hath been vomited up, and give so much again, that the Patient may have the full Dose. If in the Water you intend to dissolve the Salt in, you first boyl the bruised Seeds of *Anise*, *sweet Fennel*, *Caraway* and *Coriander*, a Dram or two Drams of each, to a Quart of Water, it will be the better, because those Seeds have a peculiar Virtue of pacifying the Ex-orbitant fury of the *Pylorus*; you may put in the Salt in the boyling, which will extract th Vertues of the Seeds, sooner and better

thin Water alone can do. But beware that you neither boyl, infuse or warm any Liquor in which the Salt is, in Brasse or Copper Vessels, but in Silver, Tin or Earth, lest it attract from the Metal somewhat disagreeable to the Stomach. It usually easeth the Pain in two or three Hours time, sometimes sooner, but where the Stomach will not retain it, or it doth not overcome and expell the obstructing matter, in a few Hours time, I give a second Dose, and if that fail (as I have some few times seen in the *dry Gripes* and *Wind Colic*) then I have recourse to my *Arcanum Universale*, which (Blessed be the Almighty) hath not that I remember ever failed me. Note that after the Pains are allay'd, it is necessary to purge the Body divers times with the Salt dissolved in the aforementioned Decoction of Seeds, to carry off the remaining Excrements, which otherwise, retaining a diseasy Ferment, may soon cause a fresh disorder. But in a bilious *Colic*, known by Bitterness of the Mouth, Vomiting, Yellowness of the Skin, &c. you may leave out the Seeds and give it in Water only, the Seeds being more precisely adapted to the help of the *Wind Colic*, *Gripes*, *Iliac*, *Passion*, &c. yet they are endowed with a general Vertue of pacifying the *Pylorus*.

In a *Diarrhea* or common Looseness, boyl some Bran in pure Water, strain the Decoction, and in a Pint of it dissolve three Drams of the Salt, and drink it up at twice, at three

or

or four hours distance : do this three or four times over if need be. But in a *Dysentery* or *Bloody-Flux*, I give the Salt dissolved in a Decoction of red *Rose Leaves* : half an Ounce a day as long as it is required, after both which, the Patient must be purged with the whole Dose dissolved in a Quart of the same Decoction, in which it was given before to sweeten the *Acrimony*. In the *Bloody-Flux*, I have given six drams of it Clyster-wise in the aforesaid Decoction, besides giving it at the Mouth by two drams at a time twice a day, and that with great Success.

In *Headachs*, *Inflammations* and *Rheums* in the *Eyes*, I give five or six drams every other day so long as there is need, many of which it hath taken away at three or four times taking. But as an Auxiliary Topick, in *Inflammations* and *Rheums* of the *Eyes*, I order a few drops of my *Aqua Ophthalmica*, to be dropt in to the *Eyes* two or three times a day.

In the *Itch*, *Borches*, *Boyls*, and other *Cholerick Eruptions* of the *Skin*, I give half an Ounce or five drams every day, dissolved in a Quart or three Pints of Water or new Whey in the Morning, as the Mineral-Waters for a Week, Fortnight, Three-weeks, or a Month together, as the greatness of the Disease requires : In those Cases it cannot be enough commended. I hath cured some that have been adjudged Leprous. In those Diseases I order together with it my *Volatile Spirit of Salt* to be taken inwardly, as in the

Scurvy, and my *Aqua Phagadenica* to be used outwardly, by washing with it twice a day.

In heat or Gravel in the *Kidneys*, or stoppage or heat of *Urine*, first I purge the Body with one whole Dose, then dissolve an Ounce in a Quart of Water in Summer, or warm Posset-drink in Winter, and let the Patient drink half a Pint at night going to bed and also early in the Morning; besides which I order thirty or forty drops a day of my *Volatile Spirit of Salt*, continuing the use of those, till the Preternatural heat be gone, the Obstructions opened, or Gravel ceaseth to come away.

Thus I have in as brief a manner as I could, set down my Experiences of the internal use of this Medicine, wherein I am not Conscious to my self, that I have in any thing commended it beyond its just merit. I shall in the next place add somewhat concerning its external Vertues and Use: to which by way of Conclusion and confirmation, I shall subjoyn the Observations of some learned and skilful Physicians concerning its Virtues, which they have been so kind to Communicate to me for the publick Good.

Of the External use of Sal Solutivum.

This Salt hath its peculiar Excellencies in Chyrurgery, as well as in Physick; it presently stops Bleeding; cures an ordinary Wound,

Wound, whether incised or contused, at one single dressing, but if the Wound be large and lacerated (provided it be timely and duly applyed) at two or three dressings, as I my self have divers times seen. It takes away all Inflammation and pain from the Wound in half an hours time, never suffering it to come to Suppuration, but cures it by the first Intention. There are three ways of preparing it, to apply it to Wounds.

The first is to take some of the *Chrystalline Salt* in the Summer time, and spread it thin in a broad Glass dish, or Earthen one glazed, and expose it to the Sun all day, stirring it now and then, and covering it with a clean Paper, to keep any dust from falling into it and in a few days you will have it come to a Powder like fine Flower, when it is brought to this state, I believe it will perform all things which are rightly ascribed to the Sympathetick powder; but this I leave and recommend to the Tryal of the ingenious; among which, if any shall be so generous to Communicate to me any effects of this Salt, which may be of further use to the publick, they shall be thankfully received, and again improved to that end. The Second way is to put some of the Salt in double Papers, about half an Ounce or less in Paper, and wear it some time in the Pocket, that the warmth of the Body may supply the place of the Suns heat, and in like manner bring it to an impalpable powder, and this may be done in the

Winter-time without attendance or trouble, The third way is to dissolve four Ounces of the Salt in a Quart of warm water, put into a Bottle and shaking it till it is all dissolved and keeping it close stopt for use. The first way it is most powerful, the last, of the least Efficacy, but either way will well serve.

For a small *Wound* or *Hurt* take a little of the powder of the first or second Preparation, and lay it upon the Wound pretty thick, and bind it on close, so that no Air may come in and let it continue on till 'tis healed, which will quickly be, but it is convenient to let it remain on for two or three days, that it may be confirmed. If at any time when you take off the dressing, you find in a *Cut* that it is not sufficiently consolidated, or in a *Bruise*, that all the Soreness and Blackness is not gone, presently apply a little more of the Medicine, and let it lye till the Hurt is quite well. But if you have not the Powder of the first or second Preparation, then take a pledget of Lint or fine Tow, or a fine Linnen Rag three or four times double, which let be well and thoroughly wetted with the Water of the third Preparation, and apply that to the Hurt as the other, which once in twelve hours or oftner, if need be, you may moisten all over with some of the same water, without opening it if the Wound be large. Where the Wound is large or lacerated, first let it be clean washed with warm Urine, so that it may be freed from Dirt or other extraneous Matter, then

take such a quantity of the Powder, as you think necessary well to cover the Wound, and mix it with so much of the White of an Egg (first well beat till it be thin) as will make it into the Consistency of a pretty thin Liniment, which spread upon fine Tow, or fine Linnen; and apply it to the Wound with convenient Bandage, letting it remain two or three Days before you open it, except in that time you find any considerable Pain, which if you do, it is a Sign that the Air hath access to the Wound, and then open it and presently apply a fresh dressing, as close as possible you can. Note, that if there be in the Wound such torn ragged Flesh, that hath taken Air, and you judge incapable of Conglutination, take it off with your Scissers before you apply the dressing. If you have not the Powder, then use the Water as above directed. The Powder will answer all the Intentions of cure in an Amputation, being duly applied with good Bandage.

It cures *Ruptures* in Children, if the *Rupture* be first put up, and then the Powder mixt with the White of an Egg (as for a Wound) and applyed to the *Serotum* or *Navel* (as the *Rupture* is) with convenient Bandage, and renewed every fourth Day, and the Salt daily taken inwardly dissolved in a Decoction of Comfry-Roots, so much as may just keep the Belly loose, but not purge; for the straining of the Abdominal Muscles in going to Stool is a great hindrance to the Agglutinating

glutnating of *Ruptures*. Suppose the Child be two or three Years of Age, dissolve in an Ounce of the Salt in a Pint of the Decoction, and give the Child three Spoonfuls of it Night and Morning, renewing the Decoction and Salt against that is done, and continue the Course for six Weeks, and by God's blessing the Cure will be effected. If the Child be younger two Spoonfuls may be enough, if elder, you must give it more according to the Rules before given, varied with Discretion.

It also effects the same in *Fractures of Bones*, being used in the same Manner, both inwardly and outwardly, for it powerfully assisteth Nature, in forming the Callous, and also preventeth *Fevers*, which not seldom happen upon those Accidents.

Half a Grain or a Grain at a time, of the Powder may be blown up into the Nostrils daily Night and Morning, to serve as an *Esrhine* or sneezing Medicine, for it pleasantly and copiously evacuateth superfluous Moisture, by which it cureth *Catarrhs*, it being also taken inwardly every other Day for some time, in such a quantity as may give three or four Stools, which is ordinarily done with half an Ounce. It giveth present ease in the *Toothach*, about a Dram of the Powder being tied up in a fine Rag, and applyed to the pained Tooth; but this is to be understood when the *Toothach* proceeds from a sharp Humour, irritating the Nerves which are inser-

ted into their **Roots**, but not of the pain of a hollow or rotten Tooth, excepting that in those it may give some short-ease: but it is necessary besides to purge 2 or three times with the full Dose of the Salt, to dulcifie and carry off the sharpness which causeth the Pain.

I could here set down many more **Uses** of this benign Salt; but becaule they are not precisely useful to a Physician or Chirurgeon, I shall leave them to some other opportunity, till I see what Reception the things I have already published concerning it, will meet with, and subjoyn the following Accounts which I have received of it from others.

Sir,

I Have only this day received your Letter, and if you writ a former one to me, I assure you, that it never came to my hands, and therefore must have miscarried, neither have I had any notice of your Intentions, in making of your *Sal Solutivum* more publick; only your old Acquaintance, and my worthy Friend Mr. T. did lately acquaint me, that you designed to afford it at a lower Rate than hitherto you have done.

I could have wished, that you had always Sold it at a more easie Price, for then it had been no small advantage to the meaner Sort of people, amongst whom the happy Effects of it, might have been more largely experienc'd, than their mean Purles could admit of; it be-
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ing one of the most Gen^l Safe and useful Medicines that ever I have prescribed; not only in those Cases wherein you so much recommend it, but likewise in divers others, in which it may be, you have not hitherto made any Trial of it.

In *Colics* and the *Gripping* of the *Guts*, where few purging Medicines take Place, it is scarce credible, with how much ease it carries off those peccant fermenting Humours out of the Bowels, removes Pains, and indeed *instar incantamenti*, affords more sure relief than *Galens* Cupping-Glass ever did.

It is of excellent use in the *Strangury*, *Gravel*, and *Nephritic Pains*, if continued for some time, and given in a proper Diet for the usual Drink.

Against *Worms*, in all Persons, and of any age, it is a Medicine of singular Efficay, and no less powerful than Pleasing to Children, when sweetned with a proper Syrup to promote its quicker Operation.

It is the very best Medium to prepare Chalybeate Medicines by, that I yet could ever find, and when intimately joined with *Mars*, which by a proper Medium is easily and readily performed, it affords the best, and most effectual Remedies, in *Cachexia*, *affectione Hypochondriaca*, *Mensium suppressione*, *chlorosi sive pallore Virgineo etiam in ipso scorbuto Multiformi*.

In excessive *Costiveness*, where the Bowels are parched up, and inflamed, their Motion inverted, and thence those miserable Pains of the

Iliac

iliac Passion; and where other Glisters tho' often repeated have no effect, a sufficient quantity of this Salt, dissolved in *decocto communi proclystere*, will certainly and happily effect the Cure.

Externally in all *Wounds* and *Ulcers*, it is the most gentle and best Mundifying and cleansing Medicament that I think is extant; and all Men of Learning or Experience, will assent, that that is the great, if not the only Intention required in these Maladies, and that he who can happily answer that one Indication, without Corrosives or doloriferous Medicines, will easily keep off all evil Attendants, and then Nature its self will prove the surest and swiftest Digestive, *Sarcotic* and *Epulotic Medicus*.

There is one Distemper, which it seems was very rare in *Galen's* Days, and which he relates only twice to have seen, tho' then arrived at a very great Age, viz. a *Diabetes*; but the Debaucheries of our Times have rendered it more common amongst us. I having been sufficiently puzzled in two of my Patients afflicted with it, notwithstanding my utmost Care, in prescribing the best of Medicines, and exactly following the Methods of the most learned Physicians, tho' wholly without Success; till at last I began to consider of *Sal Solutivum*, and its constituent Parts; and then by a very different Method, from the usual Way of exhibiting it, it had in both Cases that happy effect, which gives me some hopes,

hopes, that if rightly and duly ordered, it may prove almost as effectual in that deplorable Distemper, as the *Cortex* in intermitting Fevers.

I shall only give you this one more of my Observations about it, and it is in a Disease, which *Cathartics* instead of relieving generally render more violent, and tho' administered even in the Intervals of Fits, and after a long time of Cessation, yet they usually with greater violence cause their Returns; I mean *Hysterics*, vulgarly called Fits of the Mother; in which I have scarce ever known this Salt to fail, being given in a large Proportion of a very easy, tho' most proper *Vehicle*; it is then strangely grateful, and even in the taking, as well as in the Operation, doth with mighty ease, yield an incredible relief in that troublesome and vexatious Distemper, both to the Patient and Physician.

Thus Sir I have, tho' very concisely, answered your Request, and amongst my *Observata passim rariora, tam Medica quam Chyrurgica*, (which as my time will permit, I am preparing for the Press) I shall say much more concerning this Salt, both as to its Doses, proper *Vehiculi*, ways of Exhibiting, times of Administring, and rightly applying it to diversity of Constitutions, for without a due Consideration of all these, the greatest Physicians would scarce differ from *Empirics*, and must only Act like old Women. I am,

Warwick, March
11th 1692.

Sir, Your hum. Ser.
W. Johnston.

*An Abstract of a Letter touching Sal Sol-
lutivum,*

I Have much to say in the Commendation of *Sal Solutivum* in general, but especially on its transcendent Effects (by the Blessing of the Almighty) on two late Patients of mine; the one in a putrid *Fever*, occasioned by a Surfeit; the other of an *Athletick* habit of Body, being *Asthmatick*, and afflicted with a painful *Tumour* in *Ano*.

The first of these Patients had been under the hands of two other Physicians, for seven or eight days, who after they had skinn'd him alive left him to combat with Death, as impossible to be cured. The method they took was this, first they prescribed him a Sudorifick, ordering the Sweat to be promoted for several hours, the same Evening they gave him a Clyster, the second day another Clyster, the third day another, after which they opened a Vein in his Arm, not omitting Cordials, night draughts, &c. After his second Clyster he fell into gripings of the Bowels, then they followed him with more appropriate Clysters, and other Medicines inwardly adhibited for that purpose. After bleeding he fell delirious, even to a full Distraction, to remedy which they blistered him in divers places, but all in vain, which they seeing, put him under the sentence of death and so left him. In this condition he had remained

several days when I was sent for to him. When I came, I greatly blamed the Physicians to their Faces, for that they judging his Disease to arise from a Surfeit, had not in the first place discharged the *Viscera* of Concoction, and not to have drawn the Crudities by Clysters into the Guts, and then for their impertinent and ill timed Sweating of him, but above all for their Bleeding him, which soon sucked in the Defilements of a corrupted *Chyle* into the Veins, and put the whole Mass of Blood into a Ferment. They made little opposition to the Charge, and the sole care of the Patient was put upon me. He was still in a distracted Condition, and his Eye-sight quite taken away, yet finding by his Pulse that he had strength enough to bear [the *Sal Solutivum*, I gave him a Dose, which in an hour gave him a motion to Stool, and within four hours gave him six stools to my great Satisfaction; about the end of which time the Patient fell into a sound and quiet Sleep, I then again feeling his Pulse, told his Relations he would have no more raving Fits, which (praised be the Almighty) accordingly happened, nor did I besides this Administer any thing, but a little Cordial impregnated with your *Elixir Proprietatis volatile* to his full Recovery.

Being just now sent for to visit a Patient, I have no time to Write more, concerning those two Cures abovesaid, but the Persons are now both in good Health.

Aug. 4th, 1692.

Tours F. B. ⁿ

A

An Abstract of another Letter from the same Physician.

AS touching the Virtue of *Sal Solutivum*, if I could say no more in its Commendation, than what I have already written you touching the Case of the young Man in a *Fever* with Distraction; even that alone were worthy to be published for the general Service it might do in such Cases. Yet whether it might always have the same good effect is to be doubted, if he that Administers it be ignorant of Natures Indications, and the true timing of Medicines. For when I came first to the Patient, my design was to have administered a Dose of your *Arcanum Universale*, by reason of his great complaint of his Head, but finding him very weak, and that his Eyesight was almost lost, by reason of the violence of his Fits, and hearing a croaking noise in the Intestines, I presently changed my Intention, and instead of the *Arcanum*, gave a Dose of *Sal Solutivum*, which had the blessed effect before written. Note that this was done on the 11th Day of his Disease.

The Salt had the like Success in the Distemper of a young Woman, occasioned from a fright by a Fall from her Horse: In the first Place, she was seized with *Convulsions* and *Hysteric Passions*, which returned three or four times every day for several days together; with a continual Pain about the Regi-

on of her Spleen, but during the time of her Fits only a great Pain in her Head. A Neighbouring Pyficians advice was taken, who endeavoured with pearl Cordials, *Anti-Convulsive* and *Hysteric* Remedies to appease the fury of the Spirits, but without Success; for on the contrary the Fits came on with greater violence, and she also in the interspace grew gradually so Melancholy, till at last she became as dumb to almost all Discourse. I being sent for, after Enquiry into the Nature of her Disease, and the Remedies which had been Administred; I found that she had a Suppression of her *Menses* for some Months before; she also being of a Sanguine Complexion: But soon after I came, perceiving one of her Fits a coming, I gave her thirty drops of your *Elixir Epilepticum*, which no sooner was warm in her Stomach, but the Fit gradually remitted, and thereupon her Fits of both sorts wholly ceased; but the Pain of her Spleen, Obstruction of the Womb, and the abounding of Melancholy remained, neither had she the benefit of Stools as usual. I considering it was near the prime of the Moon, advised a Clyster for that Evening, and the next Morning six Drams of *Sal Solutivum*. And whereas she was before confined to her Bed, lying with a Melancholy Eye fixt upon the Wall, I ordered her to rise, and to be employ'd in some Household Business, or to walk with a Companion in the Fields, which she accordingly did. The third day after, coming again

again to see her, and enquiring of the Operation of her Physick, I was informed, that the Salt had given her two or three Vomits, (which way of working is unusual with it) with several Stools, and Yesterday (said her Mother) her Terms came down in abundance, more than ever she had at once in her Life, and still flow; and the continual Pain in her Side is abated. Notwithstanding things promised so well, I advis'd her to take two or three Doses more of the Salt, (as knowing it an Efficacious Medicine both for the Spleen and Womb, and also in Melancholy Cases) and also prescribed her a small Cordial of *Cephalic*, *Splenetic*, and *Cardiac* Waters, with an Addition of one Dram of your *Elixir Proprietatis Volatile*. I ordered a Dose of the Salt every other Morning, and the Cordial four or five times a day on the intermitting days. And so by the blessing of God by the use of these only, she was in a short time restored to perfect Health. The *Convulsive* and *Hysteric Passions* being occasioned by an *Idea* of Fear, were the more excited from the defect of the Womb, which only being restored to its right Office by the Salt, and the Pain of the Spleen removed, the *Idea* gradually vanished, for which reasons I do attribute the Cure chiefly thereunto, believing since that *Sal Solutivum* would have performed the Cure alone, if the Drops had not been used. But for Diseases of the Womb, I have observed it to be extraordinary Successful

cessful, when given about the Change or Full of the Moon, whose influence upon that part is very remarkable.

I have by me near forty Observations more of Cures (wherein *Sal Solutivum* hath been used) in different Constitutions, Ferments and Diseases, as well complicate as simple, but because other Medicines have been used, together with the Salt, I shall forbear to add any of them except you desire it. But as to particulars let this following Account serve for all; it being a Cure performed by it upon my own Body, and for the Greatness of it deserves to be put as a Frontispiece before the rest: Take it thus. At first I had a small Pain for some Hours, with a gentle Inflammation, which encreasing after one day broke forth into Pimples, and some Pustles near the *Spina Dorsi* on the right Side, with a gradual and daily boring as with an Angur inwardly from that part, until by the third day it had reached in a strait Line, the right Side of the *Umbilicus*: The Superficies of each pained part, I could have covered with a Crown Piece. I concluded these to be the Symptoms of an Imposthumous or Ulcerous Ferment, to me almost equally dangerous; for considering that my Stomach frequently abounded with a Scorbutick Acidity, I was apprehensive of danger, in promoting Maturation if Aposthumous, and that the Acidities of the Stomach would be as vexatious to an Ulcer, if not in the first Place altered. Under this thought-

thoughtfulness, I called to mind the Nature of *Sal Solutivum*, the which altho' I had often administered to others, yet had not taken four Doses therefore mySelf for divers years: However, because of its gentle Solutive quality, and the rather for that I knew by Experience, that in a Saline Scorbutick habit it hath abated the Saltnefs and sharpnefs of the *Lympha*. Therefore (God me so directing) I resolved forthwith to rely upon the sole use of *Sal Solutivum* (at which time my Distemper had not exceeded four days) and presently dissolved a Dose thereof in warm Posset-drink being early in the Morning, which wrought very little, nor was my pains lessened, but rather encreased for that day. At Evening therefore I swallowed four Pills of *Species Universalis*, and the Pain for that Night (the Pills having no Action) became almost intolerable. The next Morning I took a large Dose of the Salt, and felt in its Operation some ease before Noon: The same day at Evening I took another Dose, which after two or three Motions gave me far greater ease than the former, so that I rested pretty well that Night. The next Morning I found more of Soreness and Tenderness than pain. Thus I continued to take the Salt every Morning and Night (except the first Night that I took the Pills) till my whole stock was spent, which was but five Doses, which I made up six by borrowing a Dose of
one

one of my Patients, to whom I had before prescribed some Doses of this Medicine, by which time all my pain was happily and totally removed. First the Pain near the Navel, gradually remitted inwardly as it increased, and afterwards that near my Back. For the first three days my Excrements continued Foetid, Crude and Slimy, the fourth day the ordure became laudable enough, nor have I had ever since the least Symptom of pain in those parts.

One thing worthy of Observation happened in the curing of this Distemper by the Salt, which is, that it also met with another at that time altogether unthought of, which I hope it hath eradicated, I having been free from it ever since: It was a *Tetanus* or *Cramp*, an old and frequent Concomitant of the *Scurvy*; I either had it in my Fingers when writing, in my Throat when yawning, or in my Thighs, when stretching them down in the Bed; once in almost all the Musculous parts of my Body, occasioned by the taking of a Vomit many years since. When on Horseback by turning my self about, it would presently seize either my Neck, Shoulders or Side, so frequent and troublesome was it to me; although by things inwardly taken and outwardly applyed, it would perhaps remit its rigour for a week or more at a time sometimes, nevertheless it would at other times within that Compass give me fresh Onset

sets to my exceeding great trouble and pain. But now (blessed be the thrice glorious Name of God) I am freed from it with a Restoration and renewing of my Health.

One thing more worthy to be observed, which I had almost forgot, is this, I had long had a *Carnous Tumour*, occasioned at the first as I suppose by a wrench or strain of my Back, this continued somewhat after the beginning very painful, after that a small *Tubercle* like a *Wen* arising from the *Spine*, near the upper *Vertebra* of the *Loins* on the left Side. Some Months after this, a stretching pain with a *Tumour*, from that part reached streightway the length of the *Spleen*, which gradually Tumify'd to the Magnitude of a Childs Arm, in a Pyramidal or Conical figure, whose lesser end began from that *Tubercle* in the Back, and the greater part stretching over the *Spleen*, ended in the *Hypoconder* of that side. This *Tumour* was some years since mitigated by the use of *Aperitives* and *Emplastrum Nigrum*; Nevertheless it still continued painful when I lay on that side, besides which it would increase and decrease with the Moon: But since my taking the fix Doses of *Sal Solutivum*, no Symptom of that Nature hitherto appears, nor any thing like a *Tumour* remains. The Cure of this as also of the *Cramp*, was indeed unthought on by me then, whose trouble and pain were inconsiderable to that other con-

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tained

contained in the first part of this Account,
but (by the blessing of the Almighty)
all things wrought together for the benefit
of,

Your Loving Friend to use

Wivlescomb. Decemb.
17th. 1693.

Fra. Brayne,

Dr. Packe,

I Have very often been prevented in my
design of answering yours; as to the So-
lutive Salt I have found it effectual in heat of
Urine more than once, I have given it to se-
veral Persons, and to Children in a Tertian
Fever, and the second Dose has put by the
Fit; I seldom gave less than half an Ounce
unless to Children under ten years; I cured
a young Woman of Quality, *in dolore & fluxu*
Hæmorrhoidum, or bleeding Piles, when all
Remedies proved ineffectual, with fix Doses
of it, half an Ounce to each Dose without any
return; the same I did for a Gentleman of
Quality of this Country, it being an old
and obstinate Disease; I give it to Chil-
dren for the *Worms*, and to Persons in conti-
nual Fevers before any Signs of Concoction, if
they be restringed, or there be any occasion
for a Solutive; because it does not disorder
the

the Humours, yet I have known it purge some Persons very much, who have Lax Bowels and are of a weak habit of Body; a young Maid who had a Tumour broke in the intercostal Muscles of her Breast, which I perceived by her Complaint, and by the *pus* that she Cough'd up, I cured, by giving her three Doses of these Crystals; they cleans'd, and heal'd the Ulcer, as I do believe. For want of Appetite, I have given it to very many, and it always procured an Appetite to all, in two or three Doses taking. One remarkable Experiment of the *Sal Solutivum* I had almost forgot, it is this: A Gentleman in *Hants* had a Son about four years of Age, whose Face soon after his Birth was wholly encrusted over with a Scab, which continued notwithstanding all the Physicians endeavours, and old Womens Medicines in the Country, till it was by me totally cleansed by *Sal Solutivum*. I dissolved half an Ounce of the Salt in four Ounces of Spring-water, and ordered the Childs Face to be washed therewith three times a day; and at the same time the Child took the Salt in his Milk from one Dram (by degrees) to two Drams every Morning for three Weeks together, by which means the Scab vanished, and the Child's Face became perfectly smooth, which I look upon to be an extraordinary effect. I cannot at present think of more, because I am in haste, but I should be glad to hear what Improvement you, and some other Practitioners have

made of it; I have some of it by me, when I want, you shall hear from, Sir,

Your affectionate Friend,

Chichester, Novemb.

and Servant F. Howse.

19th, 1692.

Sir,

YOU having acquainted me with a design you had to advance the Reputation of wholesome and Salutiferous Medicines, that they might be brought into more common use, in the stead of those Crude and ill prepared ones too much in Vogue, not only with the meaner sort, upon whom Custom hath prevailed; but all those of a higher form, whose profession obliges them to do better, the health and lives of their Patients depending upon it. I must needs acknowledge, there is great reason for all Physicians who design the good of their Neighbours more than their own private Interest, to study the best Remedies they are capable, and the best methods for the Administration thereof: because, next to that of the Cure of Souls, that of a Physician, is the most careful and worthy Imployment under Heaven: And there is as much reason to endeavour a sincere Reformation therein, as in any thing we can set about. Now although this present undertaking of yours cannot be supposed

to effect so great a good, yet seeing all prudent Men know that the greatest things in this World, are not attained otherwise than *Gradatim*, I am not without some hopes that the publick Knowledge of the use and virtues of your *Sal Solutivum*, may do some Service that way, for when by repeated Experiments it shall be found, that this is one of the best and safest of purging Medicines hitherto made use of ; it may not only serve to stop the Mouths of those who abuse the World, by telling them that Chymical Remedies are dangerous ; but may excite the more ingenious to bring into use, those more excellent and Salutiferous Preparations your self and others, who are Philolophers by Fire can supply them with, for the good of their Patients. I shall therefore give in Evidence some few of those many Testimonies I have to offer in its just defence.

About Seven Years since I had a Patient whose Legs were much swelled and pitted, with other Symptoms, which commonly attend that sort of Dropsy called *Anasarca*. I ordered him to take half an Ounce of your Salt, which purged him very kindly ; after that six Drams of the same, with the like Operation ; and after that he took a whole Ounce, and by those three Doses he was perfectly cured, and so continued, without any other Medicine.

A Gentlewoman about fifty years old, being troubled with a general Indisposition of Body, a great Oppression at her Stomach, with want of Appetite, after other Medicines had prov'd ineffectual, I ordered her to take of *Sal Solutivum* every Morning in a draught of Water, which accordingly she did, and was cured in about ten days.

I have reason also to commend its use, in those who are troubled with heat and sharpness of Urine ; it commonly giving them relief as soon as most Remedies ; that are used, if it be timely and prudently administred.

For the *Yellow Jaundies* : I believe there are few better Remedies ; as will appear by the Tryal I made of it upon my self. Last Summer I was sorely afflicted with a deep Melancholy, and after some time fell into the *Yellow Jaundies* : I used those Remedies with which I cured others, but to me they proved ineffectual : But at length I took three Doses of your *Sal Solutivum*, by which (through the Blessing of God) I was perfectly cured. And perhaps it may not be ungrateful to the Sons of Art, to give a brief Account of the *Modus operandi*. The first Dose did Vomit and purge from Morning, till about 4 or 5 in the Afternoon, which indeed was an unusual and extraordinary way of Operation, I having never known it do so before, either in my self or others : But when I saw that the Matter ejected by Vomit was as Yellow as Saffron, I was well pleased with its Operation. I opened a Vein about

about fix that Evening, and the *Serum Sanguinis* was as Yellow as the Matter of the Vomit. I adventured notwithstanding in two days time to take the same Dose as before; It did not vomit me at all, but only gave about four or five Stools: The last I took gave me about three or four Stools: without the usual gripping and Sickneſs, which commonly attends ordinary *Cathartics*, and ſo I was freed from that afflicting Diſeaſe; as alſo that Melancholy which attended me. The Dose I took was about half an Ounce at a time. I thought good to add this, as an Encouragement to thoſe, who underſtand true Medicine, that they may not think otherwiſe of it than they ought; for by this it is manifeſt that your Salt hath variety of ways to exert its Vertue, where it meets with variety of Matter. And although I have for ſome conſiderable time, been in the purſuit of ſome *Arcana* in which I have not been wholly fruſtrate in my Intention; and therefore cannot be ſuppoſed fond of any ſingle Remedy ſo as to take up with it: Yet I muſt confeſs (where purging is neceſſary) I would, for its Saſeneſs and utility, recommend your Salt before any thing I yet know; becauſe it doth good, and no hurt, to whomſoever it hath been Adminiſtered, as by reiterated Experiments hath been found,

By your Friend and Servant.

From my Houſe in Barbican. W. Ruſſel

Febr. 17th. 1623.

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Worthy

Worthy Sir,

I Here present you with what I have remarked (and can bring to Memory) touching your *Sal Solutivum* in General.

It hath always been highly approved for that excellent Property beyond all other Purgatives, that it leaves the Body Laxative; and when taken in a sufficient quantity worketh certainly, and copiously without Sicknes, Gripings or any Discomposure, leaving the Stomach sensibly stronger, &c. not liable to taking of Colds, or any necessity of Confinement as is usual with other Purgatives.

I have found it of excellent Service in the *Iliac Passion*, making way through, or rather dissolving the most indurated or stubborn Obstructions of the Intestines, being given in a large Dose, &c.

For the *Itch* I have never known any internal means to equal it, being taken daily for a Fortnight together.

For *Uterine Obstructions*, I have prov'd it of very great Service, and sometime speedy to a wonder, effecting the work the very first Dose.

I have also known it to resolve very large Tumours of the Neck (supposed to arise from Cold, but I am well assured; that in one it was Scrophulous) by taking one or two large Doses in the Morning in their Water Gruel, in which it always works best.

And.

And as a Crown to all other its excellent Vertues, I have proved it of very great use and advantage in Melancholy Madnes, viz. where Nature was stubbornly propense, to a solitary Retirement, and Constringency, and would not hearken to the Gifts of any other Remedies, especially Resolitives. All Specificks, as well as Universals, were unavailable; yet by the constant use of this Medicine for eighteen or twenty days, Nature became effectually reclaimed from that Error, and Inordinacy, and brought to a proper and due Freedom (or Enlargement) of Action, which was soon obvious in more sound and regular Issues of the sensitive Faculties, &c. This is all that I can at present recollect of it remarkable, which I entreat you to accept of, with the hearty Respects of,

Your much obliged, and

Feb. 17th. 1692.

Faithful Servant,

George Deane.

APPENDIX.

THOUGH many and various kinds of Purging Salts have been recommended since the first Publication of this to the World (which is fifty three Years since) yet none of them, has kept up that solid Credit

dit which this still maintains with all who use it to this day, as well Judicious Physicians as private Gentlemen, &c. For allowing these Salts to be well prepared at the first, and that they were then no despicable Medicines; yet so many have been the pretended Preparers of them, who, to undersell each other have invented the most accurate Ways of disguising or imitating rather than of Preparing them, that now the mere Name of 'em only is left, (which these dextrous Imitators know very well, will Content the Generality of their Purchasers) while their Properties are only Presumptive, and their Vertues in *Nubibus*

When once the use of this *Sal Solutivum* had somewhat obtained in the World, Dr. *Nehemiah Grew*, and after him most Chymists about the City, expos'd to the Publick, a Salt by the Name of *Sal Catharticum* and *Amarum*, giving out that they made it from *Epsom* and other Purging Waters; the Truth of which is much to be doubted, considering the Nature of that Mineral; and how low a Price they first sold it at (tho' now five times lower) Be that as it will; I know such a Salt as the best of Dr. *Grew's*, when he sold it for 14 s. per Pound, may be prepared without any of the Mineral Waters, thus:

Take of the Liquor of Salt which runs from the Heaps of Salt in Salters and Oyl Mens Shops (which most of them, save by setting Vessels to catch it) 2. Pounds: put it into a Glais

retort or low Body, and pour upon it by Degrees
 12 Ounces of well dephlegmated Oyl of **Vi-**
triol, apply a pretty large Receiver and Lute it
 well; then destill in Sand till all the Spirit of Salt
 is come over, giving after that a strong Fire
 for two Hours, to drive out any of the Oyl
 of Vitriol that may remain unsalificated:
 When the Glasse is cold, you may add warm
 Water to the Salt to dissolve it. Filter the
 Liquor whilst warm, after having evaporated
 about a third Part of it in a clean Glasse or
 Earthen Pan, setting the Remainder in a cool
 Place for Forty eight Hours to ChrySTALLIZE.
 This doth not assume such a Figure in the
 shooting, as the *Sal Mirabile Glauberi*, but
 differs much from it. This shoots into fine
 Needles, is white and soft, much resembling
 Snow, and is of a bitter Taste: 'Tis a gentle
 purge, but not so universally agreeable to the
 Stomach, as *Sal Solutivum*, for which reason
 the latter had the Preference, when the *Sal*
Catharticum was at the height of repute. But
 how much these later Salts which they call
Epsom, are degenerated from that of Dr.
Grew's, *Lymington*, whence they are sent by
Hoy Loads, and other Parts, where they are
 forced up from the very Refuse of the Salt
 Pans, will inform any Enquirer.

Then upon my Father's translating and
 Publishing *Glauber's* Work several Chymist
 and others fell hard to work in making the
Sal Mirabile taught in that Book. This be-
 cause it some what resembled the *Sal Soluti-*
vum

um externally, and in degree imitated its
 tast to those who gave their Judgment from
 a superficial comparilon, these forward Gen-
 tlemen would needs force to be the very same
 with it; though to any Considerate observer,
 there is a manifest difference between the
 very figure and Complexion of the Chrystalls,
 the figure of theirs being Pyramidal like Nitre,
 of this, Cubical; their Chrystalls being of a
 dirty muddy cast, and these perfectly bright
 and transparent. These differences may be
 easily perceived by any who will but compare
 'em both together, which are Sufficient (one
 would think) to Silence those, who still have
 the Assurance (either through Knavery or ig-
 norance) to abuse the world with a Notion
 that my *Sal Solvium* and the *Sal Mirabilis*
Glauberi are one and the same Medicine.
 Could any of these Pretenders make this Salt
 of Mine they could no more keep to the true
 Preparation of it, than they do to that of the
Sal Mirabile, which they as Slovenly disguise,
 as they presumptuously compare with mine.
 But not to insist upon external Distinctions,
 the difference is vastly wider between the ver-
 tue and efficacy of 'em, as those that have try-
 ed both have abundantly testified. And indeed
 this is the only way to determine of the good-
 nels of a Medicine: For as we cannot judge
 so well of the vertue of an Agent acting upon
 the Body, from the Power and force of the
 Agent Considered in it self, as by the effect
 or

Consequence of that Action ; so one cannot properly say such a Medicine has or has not such a Vertue, till it has frequently been taken into the Body. Now the Constant use of this *Sal Solutivum* by Eminent Physicians for above thirty years together, when they might have had the *Sal Mirabile* for a fifth part of the price, together with their giving it the preference to all other Purges whatever, will soon Determine any Impartial judge. Among many Letters I have to produce Concerning this particular, I shall offer one which the late Dr. *James Thorowgood* of *Halesworth* in *Suffolk* wrote my Father, about eleven years after he had us'd this Salt, and seven after the Publishing of *Glauber* translated. It Runs thus ;

Worthy Sir,

I Understand you have pleasur'd a Brother of our Faculty in the same Town where I live with some of your *Sal Solutivum*, who (I'm inform'd) speaks but unworthy of it and may do so by the rest of your Preparations if you proceed. Whether, he obtained them by his own Letter, or had them procured by Dr. H—— (I suppose) or some other Friend in *London*, I know not, I must say, I have found it to answer abundantly what you have said of it, and shall persist in the use of it, though he thinks to lessen the Repute it deserves, judging his Anger to be as much levelled against me as it, though grounded upon

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no

no Reasonable Disgust that I know of or care for ; I thought fit to let you know this as a Caution, and shall remain

Your Real Friend,

J. THOROWGOOD.

Halesworth, May 15th, 1695.

This Gentleman was allowed the most Eminent Physician of his Time in the Country ; he had used some of these Medicines twenty Years before, therefore was a more qualified Judge of them, than one who had not try'd them so many Days. He continued using very great Quantities of them to the Time of his Death, which happened in 1711 ; at which time he had corresponded with my Father near Forty Years.

The following Letters were received since the last Edition of the *Mineralogia*.

Abstract of a Letter from the Reverend Mr. John Hunt, Vicar of Thorp near Colchester in Essex.

July 30th 1709.

Dr. Packe,

HAVING read your *Msdela Chymica*, I'm much confirmed in my Opinion of the Power of Chymical Preparations ; and am much perswaded you have found out such

such as are most proper for the general prevailing Maladies of your Countrymen. I have a great desire to try your Medicine for the Scurvy, with which I have been afflicted these three Years, though not to a violent degree; but within this twelve Month have had more greivous Symptoms; as a Pain in my Knee, with Urine as black almost as Ink, which Riverius from Eugallenus observes proceeds from a Scorbutick cause; and now I am much troubled with an Itching (especially when I undress) all o're my Body, which is very troublesome. I had sent at this time for a certain Quantity of your *Sal Solutivum*, with Money for that and your *Elixir Antiscorbuticum*, but I was first willing to know, whether you received this safe, and to have a Line from you; after which, I shall enclose half a Guinea in a Letter, for a certain Quantity of your Medicines, humbly begging you would be pleased to assure me of the Receipt of this, and that if I send Money, you will send what I write for, to

Your Hum. Serv.

J. HUNT.



The

The 26th of August following, he sent half a Guinea and had returned Sal Solutivum 8 Ounces, and Elix Antiscorbuticum half an Ounce, to be taken as directed above.

The following came Nov the 3d, 1709.

Dr. Packe;

IF you received the inclosed half Guinea, I desire you would send what further you think proper. I must say, I think your Medicines do answer their Character: I am very much the better for what I have taken, but having not continued it regularly and long enough, I find there is Occasion now to renew them, or proceed with your Species *Universalis* and *Tinctura Metallica*, which you think fit. The greatest trouble I now have is my Gums, which are very sore, and half eat away in some Parts; therefore hope you will let me have some more of your *Aq. Phagadenica* (having applied all I had before to another use) I have a little Boy aged about five Years, on whose Body the *Chry-stals* did not work so freely as usual, tho' he took 3 Ounces; nevertheless they did him abundance of good; for at this time of the Year, 'tis usual for him to have his Head break out all over, which was now begun; besides which, he came out with Pusles and little Scabs on the Body, all which I believe to be the Scurvy,

vy, and that your *Sal Solutivum* would help him: He used it three Weeks together, and the *Aq. Phagadeptica* outwardly; all the Sores and Scabs dry'd up and fell off in Scales; and he is now intirely free from any the least breaking out, Sore or Itching. I had almost forgot to tell you that the Pain in my Knee and Blacknels of *Urine* are intirely vanish'd, and the Itching is not comparable to what it was: I have nothing further to acquaint you with or ask of you, than that you wou'd be pleas'd to send the following the first Opportunity, by the Kings Arms-Coach in *Leadenhall-Street*, to

Your Friend and Servant,

JOHN HUNT.

Jan. 19th 1769-10.

Sir,

I Received yours with the Bottle of *Aq. Phagadeptica*, and took 'em as directed, of the Success of which I shall now give you an Account. My Willingness to husband so small a Quantity of the Water, put me not only upon washing my Mouth as you ordered, but dipping little Pledgets of lint in the Water, and putting them by a Quill between those Teeth, from which I perceived the ill Smell to come, which was with good Effect though slow, for by that time two Thirds of my Bottle were spent. I had not

overcome that ill Smell (in more than the two further Teeth of my upper and lower Jaw) the rest I was obliged to reserve for a Sore in one of my Children's Legs left by the Itch, which suffic'd for the Cure of that. I then resolv'd to apply your *Tincture of Myrrh*, as I had done the Water between every Tooth, both of the lower and upper Jaw : By this means I easily discover'd where the Gums were most vitiated, which I found to be much more than I suspected. I discover'd upon some Teeth (just at the closing of the Bone and Gum) a darkish, strong Matter, which after some difficulty I scrap'd off with the Point of a Pen-Knife: It seem'd very like the Tartar of *Urine* and (when pulveriz'd) had a Urinaceous Smell, and so I found several of the little Pledgets, after the Excrementious Flavour had been overcome, to smell more like new *Urine*, than any thing else. Now 'tis no surprize to me, that any thing of the *Urine* should come there, nor that the *Urine* should after some time acquire an Excrementious Smell; having been fully convince'd of these Truths for some time, by *Matter of Fact*, you will, I believe, *Dr.* upon these Observations (which may be depended upon, I think) pronounce the Fault of the Breath to be only in the Gums, and that occasion'd by some Defect in the Secretary Functions, which Fault (to finish this *Disgression*) your Medicines and Advice (by the Blessing of God) have happily amended; for my Teeth and Gums are

(52)
are now firm and tight, and no longer infest-
ed with that Stinking, Calculous Matter,
since I clear'd them of it (which is now
three Weeks since) and all the other Sym-
toms in the other Parts, are totally vanished :
However, I should be very willing to con-
tinue my Medicines a Month or six Weeks
longer, which I intirely submit to your Judge-
ment and Discretion; for the great Experi-
ence of your *Tinctura Metallica*, and Species
Universalis (which are indeed peculiarly as-
sisting to Nature, in the making its regular
and necessary Separations) makes me have a
great Esteem for them.

I have now Dr. no further to add, but to
ask your Pardon for this long Letter, and to
assure you, that for whatever Medicines you
send down, you shall be very honestly and
faithfully paid, by

Sir,

Your most hum. Serv.

JOHN HUNT.

In the next Letter which was about three
Months after this, he declares himself clear
of any Scorbutick Symptoms, that he had
taken all the Medicines, and adds, that be-
fore the first Taking of these Medicines, he
was frequently attacked with sharp Fits of
Gravel, at which time, several white Blisters
would rise up about his Body, but since he
took them, he has not the least Symptom
of the Gravel.

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*Abstract of a Letter from Dr. Francis Brayne,
dated April 1709.*

THE 12th of *March* 1709, a Gentleman committed his Son to my Care for the *Evil*, which he had labour'd under for six Years past, and try'd several Sorts of Remedies (among which one was the Stroking of a certain Famous Seventh Son) but all to little Purpose, for the Symptoms would return with full Strength, namely the Swelling of his Lip, to an excessive magnitude and very hard, his Right Eye very much swelled and inflamed (as were both his Nostrils) his Countenance pale and muddy.

The first and second Day he took 3 Doses of *Sal Solutivum* in a Liqueurise Decoction; and the 3d Day a Pill of *Astrum Mercurii* Gr. 2, the 4th day 3 Pills, the 5th day 4 Pills, the 6th day a Dose of *Sal Solutivum* in the decoction, the 7th day 2 Pills of 4 Grains each; the 8th day 2 Pills of three Grains each, and so continued at six Grains a day till the 20th day; after which, I gave him one day, one Pill, and another day 2 Pills of three Grains each, till the Month was completed; at about a Fortnight's end, his Lip began to abate of the Swelling and the Sores in the Nostrils to heal; his Eye also began to amend. The Medicine always work'd by Stool with him, viz. three or four Stools a day, two Nights

Nights only by Sweat, but never offered to Salivate or give the least disturbance to his Stomach. To help to divert the great Afflux of the Lympha to the Eye, I applied a Plaister of Pix Burgund. To the Neck, I also applied to his Face an Unguent made with Tops of Rosemary, one Hand full boyl'd with 4 Ounce of fresh Butter. After the Month's End, I gave daily one Pill of 3 Grains for a Week, after that a Dose of *Chrystalls*, then one Pill of 2 Grains every day, and at the Conclusion two Doses of *Solutive Chrystalls*. These perfected the Cure, for his fore swelled Eye was as well and as clear as the other; his Nostrils heal'd and Lips softned and reduced, and his Complexion wholly chang'd to be clear and ruddy.

Letter from Mr. Thomas Kerrich Apothecary
in Harlestone, Norfolk.

Nov. 23d, 1710.

Sir,

I Have a Patient of a Sanguine Complexion and a full habit of Body, complains of an approaching *Fistula in Ano*. The Signs that cause his Suspicion, are extreme Itching, with a continual Gleet from the Part; he is aged about 55. Now, Sir, I not being much acquainted with Surgery; yet having some Encouragement from the good Effects I have found in the Trial of your Medicines, have undertaken this

Pa-

Patient, and intend to put him into a Course of *Sal Solutivum cum Sulphure Veneris* and *Astrum Mercurii*, alternately. I crave your Opinion and further Advice about it: He has had it upon him ever since Christmas last, but never applied himself for Cure till now. I think to use the *Aqua Phagadenica* externally as directed in your *Medela Chymica*. He is a Man of sober Conversation, and my very good Friend; therefore would have your Opinion of the Case: The Cause of this his Trouble, I suppose, proceeds from the *External Piles*, which he is mightily subject to. I desire you to send *Astrum Mercurii* two Drams, which is all at present, from

Yours to Command,

THO. KERRICH.

Harlestone, April 15th, 1711.

Sir,

I Have made a Cure of the Person I mentioned in my last, with the *Fistula in Ano*, with the use of your *Sal Solutivum cum Sulphure Veneris* and *Astrum Mercurii*. I must needs add that all your *Medicines*, (I have yet made use of) answer all the Intentions that can be desired from such small Doses, and 'tis great pity the Art of making such useful *Medicines* should die with the Author.

But

But I hope, Sir, you will be so Charitable to posterity, as to prevent that.

I am,

Your Hum. Serv.

Thomas Kerrich.

Abstract of a Letter from the Reverend Mr. George Fetherstonhaugh Rector of Bintry in Norfolk.

Bintry June 6th. 1710.

A Man near thirty five years old, was above twelve Months since, from taking a Cold, seiz'd with great Pain, on one side of his Neck, reaching up to his left Ear, which after some time turned into a *Catarrh* or Destillation upon his Lungs, that Organ by the sound of the Coughing seeming to be dry; for though his Cough was pretty frequent, yet nothing was expectorated. At length the *Catarrh* devolv'd to his Stomach, and there weakning its concoctive faculty, his Flesh soon fell away. Hereupon he had recourse to me for Advice. Examining into the Cause I judged it to be a Destillation from the Brain and thereupon I Advis'd him in the first place an Issue in his Arm, and to have his Head Shav'd, then Covered with a Quilt of *Cephalics* sewed
into

into a Cap. I likewise Bathed the Neck and pained part of the Head with your *Powers of Amber and Lavender* several times. During these things, I omitted not inward help, as well to fortify parts, as to allure Sleep, which at this time began to forsake him. Now tho' those Potestates did mitigate his pains for the present, yet in a few Hours they would return again. Besides this, notwithstanding all I had attempted for altering the Styptic, sharp humor, his Cough was very little abated. Tho' he had us'd *Lubricating* Pectorals, gentle purging Potions and other Liquors proper in his Case, as Juleps of *Cephalic* and Pectoral waters, the *Balsam* and Flowers of *Benjamin*, with the *Balsamic Syrup &c.* Those would relieve him for a little time, but still his Cough continu'd. At length his Eyes began to be watery and very sore; upon which I tryed what a Blister applyed to the Head would do, but perceiv'd little or no Benefit from that. However I concluded that his Blood too much abounded with Serum; therefore I ordered the *Sal Solutivum* to be given him in Barly Water Morning and Night 3 Drams at a time for 5 or six Days, by which time his Cough was lessned and his Appetite to Food very well restored. Much joy there was for this. A Fortnight afterwards he came again to me, to Inform me that his Cough began again as before; his Appetite beginning to decline, and his Belly Costive. I Advised him to repeat the use of the

the *Chrystalls* as before. 'Twas done, and alike effect succeeded, with more visible and durable advantages than at first, to the Admiration of many who saw it. For it's now two Months since he took his last Dose, the Cough is entirely removed, the Issue runs freely, his Appetite is wholly restored, his Flesh recovered, his Eyes clear and dry, and what ever we wished for Answered to our Comfort. Upon this Blessing of the Divine goodness upon our Endeavours for the Relief of our miserable Neighbour.

I Congratulate you, good Dr,

And remain your affectionate

Friend and Servant

George Featherstonhaugh

Letter of Dr. Bettlworth of Bath to Mr. Bassett

Apothecary there

My Esteemed Friend,

I Have at last receiv'd an Account of those more Noble and admirable Medicines, a Catalogue whereof I have sent thee with the Quantitys I'd have you write for this Post because

because we want some of them. They are indeed in small Quantities; but as their *Doses* are small, their *Virtues* are Powerfull, innocent in operation, admirable in their Effects. I had almost forgot another Medicine that will often come into use, which pray omit not; it is *Sal Solutivum*. I would not have you neglect the Post, because I do actually stand in need of some of these at present. They are a comple set of Medicines, wanting only *Vehicles* aptly suited to them;

I am Yours

To serve you in all the good
Offices I am capable,

JOHN BETTESWORTH.

Bath July 24th. 1711.

Dear Dr. Packs.

I Began to use your Medicines the 13th. of the last Month; and have found them succesfull in several Cases, one of which I think well deserves Notice. The case was the *Flatus Hypochondriacus*; the Gentleman Aged about 38, of a Studious Inclination, Costive habit, exceedingly *Scorbatic*, subject to *Hætic Disorders*, especially as soon as any Food was taken. 'Tis worth remarking, that he

he has not had the usual proper Sensation on the approach of a Stool (as is common to others, and was to himself) these two years. I forbear to enumerate many other Considerable Symptoms that generally attended this Case. But to tell you a thing, almost incredible! In the taking no more than two half Ounces of your *Sal Solutivum cum Sulphure Veneris*, and drinking the Bath Waters in the Operation thereof, this Gentleman is become a new Man, and that in the space of seven or eight Days time. The Symptoms (that are most of them above 10 Years standing) are greatly abated, and one of them totally vanished. For a bad, a good Stomach is exchanged, the *Hætic* heat little or none, the *Flatus* gone, Stools regular, and to his Admiration and mine also he owns, that the proper Sensation arising from the impression of the Acrimony of the Choler in his stool on the Fibres of the *Rectum* (which, as I said, was lost) is return'd, so that now he says it is a pleasure to him to ease himself. From this and several other Cases, I find the *Sal* agrees far beyond any other thing I have hitherto us'd with the Waters, and there's no room for comparison between the common *Sal Catharticum, amarum* and *Sal Solutivum*, according to what I have prov'd.

I am Your hearty Friend

And Admirer

JOHN BETTESWORTH



the patient had the usual proper sensation of
the approach of a stool (as is common in
others, and was so myself) about two years
before he was seized with this complaint.
But to tell you a thing, almost incredible!
in the taking no more than two half
Ounces of your Sal Salmurian was sufficient
to cure him, and drinking the said Waters in the
space of three or four days he was perfectly
restored, and that in the space of seven or
eight days time. The symptoms (these are
most of them) were as follows (standing) are
restless sleep, loss of appetite, loss of
strength. For the first two or three days
the patient was in a great deal of pain
and distress, and was obliged to use
on arising from his bed, and the
the Cholera in his stool on the first of the
stomach (which, as I said, was lost) is returned,
that now he says it is a pleasure to him to
eat himself. From this and several other
uses, I find the Sal agrees far beyond any
other thing I have hitherto used with the
patients, and there's no room for comparison
between the common Sal Salmurian, and
the Sal Salmurian, according to what I have
said.

I am Your hearty Friend
And Admirer
JOHN BETTESWORTH